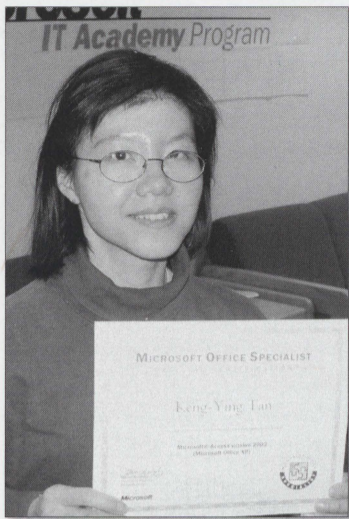




On the Green—A publication for Gallaudet faculty, teachers, and staff
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Microsoft Office Specialist certifications benefit everyone



Keng-Ying Tan, a business administration and computer information systems major, holds her MOS Access Core certification. She expects to graduate in December, and is planning to conquer the Microsoft Office Specialist Master certification before she heads out for the business world.

By Qi Wang

We are told that we live in the "Information Age." But what does that mean? According to the dictionary, it is "...a period characterized by widespread electronic access to information through the use of computer technology." Therefore, an individual must possess adequate desktop computing skills to function effectively in today's workplace.

How do employers measure a job applicant's desktop skills? Here is what Gallaudet student Lise Bien-Aime had to say about a recent job hunting experience: "I found myself behind a computer taking two tests, one for MS Word and one for MS Excel. Although I had no clue that they would test my Microsoft Office skills, and went to the agency unprepared, I managed to pass the tests—thanks to the Microsoft Office Specialist certification prep classes I took last semester. I was not too serious back then and did not bother to take the required exams and get certified. Now I know it was a mistake. I am back to the MOS certification prep classes again and this time I am determined to get MOS Excel certification before I graduate this May."

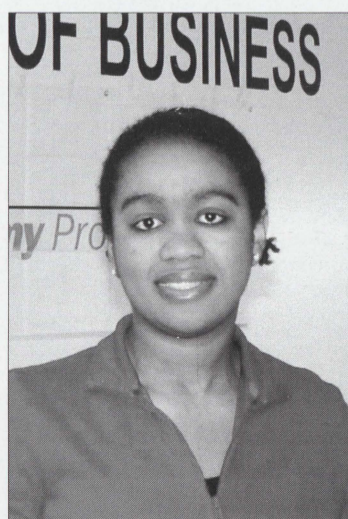
MOS certifications are the globally recognized standard for demonstrating desktop skills. Possessing such a certification in addition to a college degree will make any new job seeker stand out in today's tight job market. In fact, it is reported that a growing number of universities require Microsoft certifications for students to graduate, because they recognize Microsoft Office as the leading tool for today's workforce, and businesses want assurance that new employees are skilled in these

tools.

The MOS certification exam prep classes offered jointly by the Microsoft IT Academy Program and the Professional Study and Training of the Graduate School and Professional Programs are designed for anyone who wants to achieve desirable desktop skills. In addition, if individuals want their skills to be validated, they can take the required exams and be certified by Microsoft. The MOS certifications will enable them to get a desktop skill test waiver at employment agencies and secure job interviews before other applicants.

To meet the growing demand on campus, Gallaudet has changed its program design by offering flexible scheduling and customized training. The University's MOS master instructor is able to train each individual at his/her own pace in the same lab (Ely Center Room 202D). Students can start their training on any Saturday from now to the end of the semester. The certification exam is optional for individuals who do not want the certification to validate their skills. For full-time University students and staff, the tuition is waived. To register for these classes, please contact pst@gallaudet.edu.

So far, these special training classes have produced two MOS certification holders among Gallaudet undergraduates—Keng-Ying Tan (MOS Access Core) and Carlos Stennett (MOS Word Expert). There are quite a few other students who are at various stages of training and exam preparation. Let's wish all of them great luck in their pursuance of the premier MS desktop certifications. **G**



Lise Bien-Aime, a senior accounting major, is planning to achieve Microsoft Office Specialist Excel Expert certification and sharpen her skills in MS PowerPoint and Outlook before her graduation in May.



Grounds Services workers Andre Samuel (left) and Leonard Thiombiano remove snow from a sidewalk leading to College Hall's "Coffin Door" on February 20. The approximately two feet of snow that fell on the

area February 16 and 17—even more than the infamous Blizzard of '96—presented a challenge for Gallaudet's Grounds Services and Maintenance Services staff, who are charged with clearing campus streets, parking lots, and sidewalks, but early and ongoing efforts by workers kept the task in hand. Some workers—most of whom live nearby—who were normally off duty, came in on Saturday, having learned of the impending storm from the barrage of media forecasts, and began making preparations. Some of the workers stayed the night at the Conference Center, where rooms had been reserved, and on Sunday morning more staff arrived. The initial goal was to clear streets, dorms, and plazas for the students to get around. The crews logged overtime hours, working into the night on Monday and Tuesday, plowing again and again to keep pace with the accumulating snow. Next, workers tackled steps and sidewalks and cleared piles of snow from the streets to ensure a safe passage for students, and for faculty, teachers, and staff when they returned on February 19. In a February 24 campus e-mail, Vice President for Administration and Finance Paul Kelly thanked the members of the campus community "for their patience and cooperation following the snowstorm." Kelly added that moving such a large volume of snow taught the University a few lessons on ways it can improve such a large undertaking. For example, Kelly said the University plans to establish snow removal teams. Gallaudet will also examine the capabilities of its snow removal equipment and provide workers with more training in its uses.

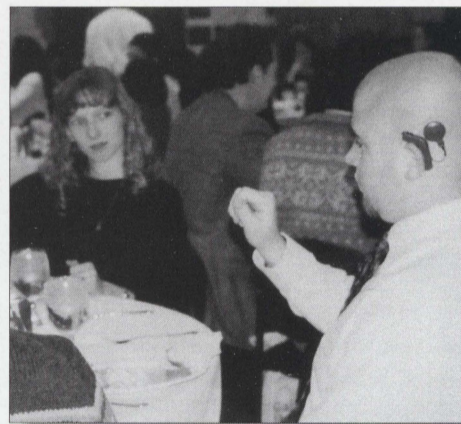
Student ambassadors connect with prospective students

A new Student Ambassador Program, started by the Admissions Office, is gaining acclaim in its efforts to recruit some of the best and brightest deaf students.

The program is set up to foster more interaction among current and prospective students to give students who are considering enrolling at Gallaudet the full picture of life at the University. "I truly love Gallaudet, and I enjoy meeting the prospective students and educating them about Gallaudet," said Bonnie Jo Morrison, one of this year's student ambassadors.

Stacy Nowak, the visitors' coordinator in the Admissions Office, said that the student ambassadors serve many roles. They show students around campus during Open Houses and answer any questions they have. They also meet prospective students' parents, and sit on student panels. In exchange for serving as student ambassadors, the students get community service hours.

"The prospective students love the students, and enjoy interacting with them," said Nowak. "The student ambassadors know what it's like to be in the prospective students' shoes." During lunch at a recent Open House, the student ambassadors could be seen inter-



Linda Phillips talks with prospective students during lunch in the Conference Center, at a February 21 Open House.

acting with the prospective students and their families, providing personal insights on Gallaudet.

There are presently 24 student ambassadors, and the Admissions Office is on the lookout for more, said Nowak. Students who are selected as ambassadors have to meet certain criteria. "We focus mainly on academics, great fellowship, and overall knowledge of the Gallaudet experience", said Nowak.

Charity Reedy-Hines, director of Admissions, said, "This program has the potential to be a very powerful recruitment tool. The Office of Admissions takes pride in its student-focused approach to recruitment because it provides a bond between the students and, who knows, some lifetime friendships could start here." **G**



Stu • dent • sau • rus

Hillary Roberts-working in a refugee camp

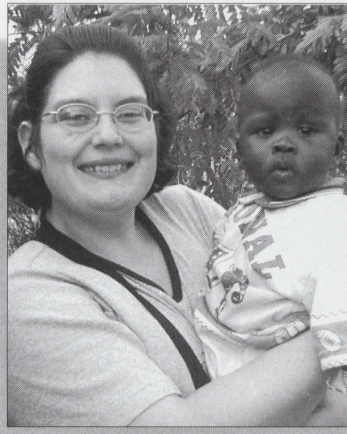
Living in a refugee camp means not having a real life at all. At best, it is merely existing, without a country, without rights, and a dim prospect for a better future.

Senior Hillary Roberts, who is majoring in government and communication studies, chose to work in the Dadab Camp in Kenya, a United Nations refugee camp, during the fall semester to try to improve the lives of the many deaf people living there.

"I have a strong interest in human rights, and I wanted to express that by working with refugees," explained Roberts. She spent much of her time advocating for the needs and rights of the deaf community in the camp, which has over 100,000 people, mostly from war-torn Somalia.

As many as 10 refugees live together in tiny, 10-foot-square mud huts with dirt floors and no running water or electricity. Every morning, the families have to line up for water. The camp is in the desert, so the refugees can't grow food. They depend on U.N. rations, which arrive every six weeks. According to Roberts, the refugees' food source is primarily a type of flour, which is boiled, then the water is drained from it so that it tastes awful," she said.

According to Roberts, no one was working for, or on behalf of, Dadab's deaf population. "Most of the deaf people tend to be isolated; they had no voice," she said. "I tried to create an environment where people would come together." Her first task was locating all the members of the camp's deaf community—not an easy undertaking since, due to shame, many parents would hide their deaf kids when the U.N. came around. In fact,




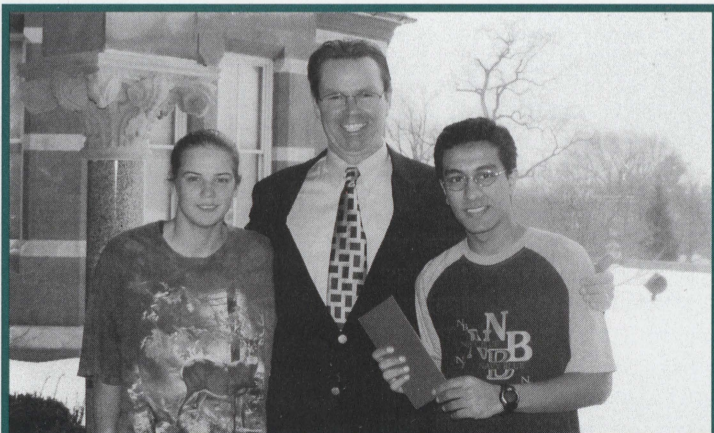
Hillary Roberts holds a Sudanese refugee baby.

she said, "Some parents became desperate and frustrated and they abandoned their kids." The U.N. estimated that about 300 deaf people were living at Dadab, but Roberts felt that the number was much higher.

Roberts tried to help the deaf families as best as she could with her limited resources. She taught some of the older members of the deaf community how to advocate for themselves and the deaf community's needs. "I would talk to the families and explain to them that their deaf child could be educated, and also had a right to an education." Roberts also discovered that girls did not tend to be educated in the camps; they instead were put to work to support their family.

The teachers for the deaf children did not sign and had minimal teaching materials, so the students were learning very little. "The teachers tried their best, but it's hard when you don't have the skills and knowledge," Roberts said. But when she started teaching, Roberts said the students became motivated and were very expressive. She communicated with them using ASL, English, and Kenyan Sign Language, which she picked up from them.

Despite the desperation and lack of hope of many people there, Roberts wants to go back to the camp when she graduates in May. "The people there have an impact on you," she said. "They've gone through so much. People came up to me, and said thank you for helping me or my daughter or the deaf community. That meant a lot to me." 



Senior Aquil Chinoy (right) from India received a \$250 gift certificate to Pentagon City Mall as the winner of a contest sponsored by the Department of Administration and Finance challenging students to guess the number of trees on Kendall Green. Chinoy originally planned to give 500-600 trees as his estimate, but his girlfriend, Sandy Sloat (left), convinced him it was a higher number. Chinoy guessed 1,100—just 11 more than the actual number of 1,089, according to Trudy Haselhuhn, horticultural supervisor for Grounds Services. For her powers of persuasion, Chinoy gave Sloat half of the prize, and plans to give the balance to his parents, who will be visiting the United States for the first time for his graduation in May. In the photo, Chinoy is presented his gift certificate by Vice President for Administration and Finance Paul Kelly.

ROVING REPORTER

What were the best and worst things about the record President's Day snowstorm?



Stephany Galich, administrative secretary, University Library:

The snow is beautiful and fresh. I love to watch it fall; it's very serene. People become nicer when it's snowing. Along with my neighbors, we all worked together on the big dig. [But later] It's dirty and ugly. I don't drive in it; it scares me. People are crabby, tired of pushing snow, and aching from all the work!



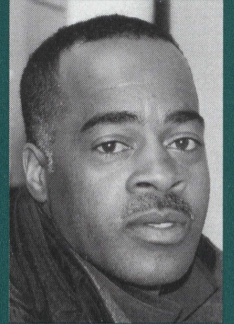
Audrey Wineglass, grants and contracts specialist, Office of Sponsored Programs:

The Office of Sponsored Programs missed the snow day on February 7 because we had a proposal due to the federal government, which was still open. So, the best thing about the recent snowstorm was that it was like an extended vacation, and I really enjoyed it. The worst thing about it? The aches and pains from shoveling my car out.



Thuan Nguyen, program specialist, Multicultural Student Programs:

The best part of the snowstorm was that I got the opportunity to catch up on my exercising, study some Vietnamese-English books, and relax. The worst part is that I couldn't go to the grocery store for a few days. I also had to help push a friend's car from under all the snow.



Ron Cheek, groundskeeper, Grounds Services:

The best thing about the snowstorm was the cooperation from the other departments, i.e. electricians, plumbers, room mechanics, etc. with the snow removal. The worst thing was being here and not being able to clear my walks at home!



President Jordan welcomes new members of the Staff Advisory Committee and thanks outgoing members for their past efforts on the committee at the SAC's first meeting of 2003 on February 13 in College Hall. Pictured from left are: (front row) Agnes Muse, Marcia Schweitzer, Susan Jacoby (secretary), Stephany Galich, (back row) Sue Hotto (vice chair), Marc Schweitzer, Rosa Mann (outgoing member), James Lee (chair), Patricia Kunkle (ex-officio), Dr. Jordan, and Denise LaRue (ex-officio). (Not pictured is past chair Beverly Hollrah and outgoing member Charles Bryant.)

CAMPUS CALENDAR

March:

7—Open House for prospective undergraduate students, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., for more information, check admissions.gallaudet.edu/open-house; Baseball vs. Cazenovia College, 1:30 p.m., two games

8-12—Visit by National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education to review Gallaudet professional education units, for more information, check <http://gspp.gallaudet.edu/ncaate/announcement.html>, or call x5530

10—Roundtable discussion for CLAST faculty, HMB S150, 9-10 a.m., for more information, call x5224; Last day for undergraduate students to drop in incomplete grades from previous semester, for more information, call x5393; Midterm grades due for undergraduate students by 4:30 p.m., Chapel Hall 101, for more information, call x5393

10-12—Summer course registration for currently enrolled undergraduate students, Chapel Hall 101, for more information, call x5393

12—Diversity Day, The Art of Diversity: Building a Unified Gallaudet Community," GUKCC and SUB, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., for more information, call x5660; Turn-A-Page-Together, books and lunch provided, pre-registration required, SUB Room A, 12-1 p.m., for more information, call x5144; Baseball vs. Salisbury University, 12 p.m., two games

13-14—Summer course registration for currently enrolled graduate students, Chapel Hall 101, for more information, call x5393

13—Baseball vs. Valley Forge College, 1 p.m., two games

15—Baseball vs. Christendom College, 12 p.m., two games

17-21—Spring Break

20-23—Academic Bowl, Mid-Atlantic regional competition, MSSD, for more information, check academicbowl.gallaudet.edu/regions/midatlantic.html, or call x5608

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